

From: RPineo@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 4:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to express my emphatic opinion that it is time to settle the Microsoft antitrust case. The case has gone on for far too long. I believe Microsoft was pretty aggressive in their marketing. However, this was an entirely new area of business with no real way of knowing from past experience what would be considered an anti-trust infringement and what would not.

Microsoft's hands have been slapped. In fact, as I understand them, the terms of the settlement not only slap Microsoft's hands, but also ties them in the future. Microsoft has agreed to not retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows. They have agreed to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs. And they have agreed to design future versions of Windows so that competitors can more easily promote their own products within Windows. This seems almost the opposite of free-market enterprise and certainly mandates co-operation with their competitors.

As an Iowan, I disagree with the stand Attorney General Tom Miller has taken. I tried to send him an e-mail (lacking his e-mail address, I ended up sending care of the Governor) telling him this. I have had no reply. I think he is wrong and is letting political interests guide him instead of looking out for what is best for the State of Iowa as well as the nation.

Any error Microsoft made in too enthusiastically promoting their growth has been mitigated, in my mind, by the huge advances their innovations have caused in all areas our society and the economy and IT sector. We need more entrepreneurial endeavors in this country. Especially since 9/11, we don't need to spend time and efforts on things like this. That is why it is your job to take a stance and finalize the settlement. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Linda Pineo
1568 Rio Valley Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50325